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August 12, 1993

TO: Minerals File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *DWH*

RE: Joint Agency Meeting, Status of EPA Site Investigation, 5M-Inc., Silver Reef Mine, M/053/002, Washington County, Utah

Date of Meeting: August 11, 1993
Time of Meeting: 1:00 - 3:30 PM
Location: UDEQ, Cannon Health Bldg., Room 101
Participants: EPA, BLM, UDEQ (DERR, DDW), Bureau of Reclamation, USFWS, & DOGM (Minerals & AMR Programs) (See attached attendance list)

Purpose of Meeting: A joint agency meeting was held to discuss the status of the ongoing EPA site investigation of 5M-Inc., Silver Reef mine site. It was also an opportunity for all participating and/or affected regulatory agencies to get together to discuss their respective responsibilities and coordination roles.

A joint agency meeting was held at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to discuss the status of the ongoing EPA funded site assessment of the 5M, Silver Reef mine site. Personnel from the Denver, EPA Emergency Response Branch led the discussions at the meeting. They described the superfund site assessment process, what has been accomplished thus far, and the tentative schedule for continued work involving the site.

All participants were given an opportunity to ask questions of the EPA and present their respective concerns and/or regulatory requirements. The EPA handed out copies of the "final report" of their field investigations conducted at the Leeds Silver Reef site. The Bureau of Reclamation brought copies of their proposed "Work Plan" and a draft Heap Leach and Processing Ponds Alternatives outline for the site. EPA gave copies of same to the respective agencies for their information and comment. The Work Plan outlines the scope of work and projected timeframes under which the Bureau will produce a final "Value Engineering Report" (by November 1993). EPA requested all agency comments on the Work Plan and a to be returned by August 30th.

The BLM voiced strong concerns with regard to EPA's possible determination that this site may be characterized as a "federal facility" (because of the preponderance of federal land involved; pursuant to Federal Executive Order #12580). If this decision is affirmed, then the minesite will no longer be eligible for cleanup and remediation with EPA superfund monies. EPA indicated that this decision will likely be made at their solicitors level and as part of the ongoing Potential Responsible Parties (PRP) assessment. Thus far, approximately 13 - 104e letters have been sent out by the EPA to potential entities that may have had some involvement with the past operations of the mine site (late 1970's - 1980's).



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Wayne Thomas, UDEQ District Engineer, indicated that he had heard rumor that 5M-Inc. has filed a bankruptcy petition with the courts. EPA indicated they had also been heard of this but, they had no confirmation of same at this time. They expect to receive further information from 5M on this matter as part of the company's response to the 104e letter.

This issue of possible cleanup/remediation of the contaminated drinking water well with EPA superfund monies was also discussed. EPA indicated that at this time they were not sure if the levels of contaminants in the water were high enough to qualify the well for EPA emergency response expenditures. EPA stated that they would be utilizing DWEL (Drinking Water Equivalent Levels), not MCL's (Maximum contaminant levels) as the basis for determining if the site qualifies for an EPA removal action. EPA did not rule out the possibility of their eventually becoming involved with remediation of the contaminated well, but did not anticipate it occurring in the immediate future.

DOGM expressed a concern regarding their regulatory obligation to utilize the forfeited surety in a timely manner for reclamation of the minesite. It is DOGM's opinion that we cannot continue to suspend the process of developing and letting a contract to reclaim the site much longer. DOGM's AMR representatives informed the group of their plans to continue the abandoned mine site inventory of the Silver Reef area this fall. They expressed their willingness to coordinate with and share information obtained or generated with all interested parties.

The USFWS representative questioned why the EPA had not included a migratory bird inventory as part of their most recent assessment/inventory of the mine site area. The EPA indicated it was most likely a result of the timing of their site assessment (November 1992, and short duration) rather than an intentional oversight which resulted in the lack of this information being ascertained.

The meeting concluded with EPA's commitment to keep all parties involved/informed as the development of the Value Engineering Report proceeds. Another meeting will likely occur sometime after the final report is completed to determine the best method(s) for remediation of the onsite contamination and how it will be coordinated and funded.

jb

Attachment

cc: Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Mary Ann Wright, DOGM
Minerals staff (route)

M053002.mtg

8/11/93 Leeds Silver Reclamation Site Meeting

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